

VZCZCXRO5066
OO RUEHBC RUEHBZ RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEH DU RUEHKUK RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN
RUEHROV
DE RUEHTRO #0961/01 3480911
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 140911Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5541
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1197
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0865
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0662
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN 0056
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 6091

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TRIPOLI 000961

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2019 TAGS: [PGOV PHUM KISL SOCI LY](#)

SUBJECT: LIBYAN CHANGE OF EID AL ADHA HOLIDAY PROMPTS RARE PUBLIC GRUMBLING TRIPOLI 00000961 001.2 OF 002

CLASSIFIED BY: Gene A. Cretz, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy Tripoli, Department of State. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

1.(C) Summary: A recent decision by Muammar al-Qadhafi to unilaterally change the date of the Eid al-Adha celebration from November 27 to November 28, 2009. QADHAFI'S INTERVENTION GOES TOO FAR

2.(C) While the Libyan regime prides itself on promoting moderate forms of Islam and serving as a counterbalance to fundamentalist movements, it has recently prosecuted imams for defying leader's order.

3.(C) Several local contacts privately told us that they were shocked by the Libyan Government's "unprecedented" decision to celebrate the Eid

4.(C) Foreign-based website Libya al-Youm reported November 27 that the government had removed 16 imams from their posts and were investigating the Crescent Moon Rises Earlier in Libya

5.(C) After several days of criticism in blogs and opposition websites, Muammar al-Qadhafi made a lengthy public statement defending Libya's decision

6.(C) Muammar al-Qadhafi's controversial decision to unilaterally declare the Eid al-Adha celebration one day earlier than the rest of the world